Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands have so far been notified to receive assistance under the Scheme.

The Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme for Agri-Business Development by providing venture capital assistance to agri-business projects and assisting producers' group in the preparation of detailed reports for such projects. The main objective of the Scheme is to catalyze private investment in setting up of agri-business projects and thereby providing assured markets to producers for increasing rural income and employment. The scheme has been approved with an outlay of Rs.48 crores during remaining period of Tenth Plan. Venture capital assistance is provided to eligible projects in the form of equity upto an extent of 26% of the project equity or 10% of the total project cost or Rs.75 lakhs whichever is less. The scheme is implemented by the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), an autonomous organization under this Ministry. Venture capital assistance is provided for those projects that encourage the farmers to diversify into high value crops and provide them with assured market and increased farm income.

The Central Sector schemes for "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" and "Agribusiness Development through Venture Capital Assistance" have been approved for implementation with effect from 20.10.2004 and 11.7.2005 respectively. Assistance provided under both the schemes lowers the business risk to the agri-entrepreneurs and enhances the financial viability of the projects for the banks.Assistance is provided for the development of infrastructure projects in agriculture and allied sectors, and for creating user facilities like market yards, weighing etc., functional infrastructure like assembling, grading, labeling etc., and infrastructure for direct marketing, e-trading etc.

Revival of IISCO

*45. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Iron and Steel Company continues to be a

loss-making concern, if so, the production, profit and loss incurred by each of its units since 2001 onwards;

(b) whether some of its units have been lying idle fully or partially, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to revive the same and the strategy contemplated to revive and rejuvenate this PSU?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. The Indian Iron & Steel Company (IISCO) has been making profit since 2003-04.

The unit-wise production and profit and loss of IISCO since 2001 are given below:

Unit-wise production

(Quantity in '000 tonnes)

	Burnpur Works		Kulti Works	Collieries	Iron Ore Mines
Year	Pig Iron	Saleable Steel	Castings	Coal	Iron Ore Lump
2001-02	288	292	33	1155	1307
2002-03	280	264	23	832	1206
2003-04	222	241	0	772	1245
2004-05	182	274	0	890	1190

Unit-wise profit(+) and loss(-)

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Burnpur	Kulti	Collieries	Iron Ore Mines	Total
2001-02	-153.84	-42.37	18.21	-1.87	-179.87
2002-03	-147.61	-31.18	1.15	-4.59	-182.23
2003-04	55.48	-18.81	-6.91	-2.67	27.09
2004-05	-3.54	-14.65	57.39	7.39	46.59

(d) whether the Ministry of Tourism will also aid the Ministry in giving strategic push to Indian health-care sector in foreign markets?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have not constituted any task force comprising experts from the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Tourism, Railways, External Affairs, Civil Aviation and Director General of Health Services to suggest strengthening the policy measures and norms for National Accreditation Board to provide accreditation to private hospitals.

The Central Government is examining the possibility of a regulation for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments to ensure quality health care services including norms for assessment, accreditation, inspection, certification, regulation of such clinical establishment as well as maintenance of records.

A new visa category *i.e.* 'Medical Visa' to facilitate foreign nationals, who wish to utilize specialized medical health care facilities to come to India for medical treatment, has been introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs. This decision has been communicated to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

The Ministry of Tourism is interested in promoting Medical Tourism given the comparative advantages, which India has in terms of cost, internationally renowned doctors and hospitals and the diversity of tourist destinations available in the country. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is working in close coordination with the Ministry of Tourism to give a strategic push to open the healthcare sector to foreign tourists.

Passenger-upgrade Scheme

*47. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the free passenger-upgrade scheme announced recently by Railways is operational;

(b) if so, the total amount saved, so far, by Railways on account of not having to refund money for waitlisted tickets;